



The Allentonian

*A publication of the American Association of University Women
Allentown, PA Branch
Breaking through barriers!*

Susan Nenstiel, President

February 2018

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**Invites you to
Spirituals, Songs and Stories
by Grace Spruiell Hochella**



**Grace Spruiell Hochella,
Renowned Equity Actress will take us on
an historical journey through the African-
American experience as shown through slave
narratives and music**

**Saturday, March 3, 2018
10:30 AM to 12 Noon
Foy Hall
Moravian College
342 Main Street, Bethlehem, PA**

President's Message

Happy New Year! Mother Nature did not cooperate for our January meeting. We are hoping to get the League of Women Voters back in April to talk about gerrymandering. Even though the PA Supreme Court ruled that redistricting must be done by February 9, gerrymandering will still be a hot topic, I'm sure.

I have some news to share about the merger/consolidation of Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton branches. The branches, including ours, have decided to table further discussion at this time. We are hopeful that joint programs will continue. A special thank you for Karen Peiffer and Judy Trach for their work on the merger committee. They represented our branch well and we appreciate their commitment to our mission.

What does this mean for us? We will continue to be the GREAT branch we are. Jeanne Ring and I have agreed to stay on as program vice president and president respectively through 2019. Your board is committed to our mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. We know that you are committed too. Just as AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls, we will be too. We are on a new path.

We are waiting to hear from Cedar Crest College President Dr. Elizabeth Meade about our offer to hold a \$tart \$mart workshop on campus and to give a scholarship for a student to attend the National Conference of Women Student Leaders in June on the campus of the University of Maryland.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 5. We are honored (and grateful to Linda Robbins for arranging) to host Heather Mason, a former Legal Advocacy Fund litigant. Heather's story begins at the University of Tennessee where she worked with Pat Summitt. ***We are looking for members to help with this event so we can fill the banquet room by inviting area high schools, colleges, sports organizations and other AAUW branches.*** If you are interested, please contact me at 610-965-0663 or at nenstiel@ptd.net.

I hope to see you at our next joint program on Saturday, March 3 at Foy Hall, Moravian College, South Campus. Don't forget if you need a ride, please call me.

All the best,

Susan

Save the Date: *Rescheduled January 16th Meeting to April 19th*

Mother Nature snowed us out January 16th but Jeanne Ring was able to reschedule January's meeting to April 19th. Our guest speaker will be **Jan Little**, President of the League of Women Voters of the Lehigh Valley – recipient of our branch's Gateway to Equity Award in May 2017. She will speak about **gerrymandering**. Time & Details of the meeting will be announced!

Lets Read Math

Submitted by Jan Seaman

Can you help? This program that encourages groups of members to interact with 2nd grade school children only works if at least six members are available each time we are invited to take this effective learning tool into a classroom. Lynn Petit, Linda Roosa, Jan Seaman and Judy Trach have recently been active. Chat with one of us if you have questions. On January 22, 23 and 25, our teams will be going to Lincoln and Donegal schools in Bethlehem. Interested in joining us later this year? Be informed by contacting Jan Seaman (jrouxseaman@gmail.com) or Fran Bentkowski (fbentkowski@verizon.net) with your email address.

Public Policy

Lesley Lojko, Public Policy Chair

Paul Muschick's column in the Morning Call on Sunday, January 14, 2018 listed the names and contact information for the federal officials from the Lehigh Valley who represent us in Washington. They are as follows:

Sen. Bob Casey: 610-782-9470, casey.senate.gov/
Sen. Pat Toomey: 610-434-1444, toomey.senate.gov/
Rep. Charlie Dent: 610-770-3490, dent.house.gov/
Rep. Matt Cartwright: 484-546-0776, cartwright.house.gov/

He stated in his Opinion column that these officials can help us navigate some of the federal bureaucracy if you are having a problem with Social Security benefits or veterans benefits and sometimes serious non-governmental matters. He gave an example of a young mother who needed an organ transplant who was helped by Charlie Dent to get on a list more quickly.

These folks cannot help with state and local issues, but may be able to direct you to the correct office or agency.

Of course, if you are concerned about an issue that is up for a vote in the House or Senate, you can use these numbers and addresses to let these same reps know. Our reps in Washington do respond, some quicker than others, but they do want to hear from you.

January 11, marked the 133rd anniversary of the birth of Alice Paul, who was an American suffragist who fought for the passage of the 19th Amendment. She also founded the National Women's Party, and wrote the Equal Rights Amendment.

Alice Paul risked her life to gain women the right to vote. Let's continue her legacy by making our voices heard at the ballot box! We can honor Alice Paul and other suffragists by being active participants in our government, and ensuring that others can, too.

The Lehigh Valley Women's Advocacy Coalition met last week and stated the three issues the Coalition intends to focus on this year. They are: domestic violence, pay equity and gerrymandering.

We were given information about a bill that is before the PA House and Senate concerning Domestic Violence. The bill is labeled SB 501 Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention. If you would like more information about this bill you can find it under PCADV aka Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. If you have questions, please call me.

Turning Point of Lehigh Valley – AAUW Donations Are Requested

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley is a safe place where victims of abuse and their children can find refuge and services. Over 5,000 women and children from Lehigh and Northampton counties are helped each year. Turning Point's Mission is three fold:

- Work toward the elimination of domestic violence
- Increase community awareness of the problem
- Empower victims by providing shelter and support services.

Donated items are always needed by the residents at the shelter and for those who are trying to establish violence-free homes. They provide a ray of hope to the victims, showing that others care. Our Branch will continue to reach out and support this much needed mission. This year we are concentrating on the three most needed donations:

- \$4 all day bus passes
- Gift cards for grocery stores, Wal-Mart, Target, Wawa and pharmacies
- New bed pillows, twin-sized sheets, blankets and comforters
- Please bring your donations to your study group leaders, board members or bring them to our April Branch meeting. If you have any questions please contact Linda Roosa (610-966-1459) or Peggy Tyson (610-797-4199). Thank you for your support.

February Hot Topics Luncheon

**The League of Women Voters Lehigh Valley presents:
“Minority Inclusion”**

Milagros Canales - Award winning Community Liaison and Advocacy Worker - will discuss:

1. Identifying the needs of our minority communities
2. How government, community, and volunteers are helping
3. And, how our community organizations can be more inclusive

Monday, February 12, 2018

11:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Superior Restaurant in Emmaus (Optional \$11.00 lunch buffet)

Please register for the buffet by *Thursday, February 8* by emailing lvwlehigh@yahoo.com

Branch Notes

Past President: We are sad to learn of the death of Josephine (Jo) Mountain on December 9, 2017. She was living in an assisted living facility in Blue Bell, PA near her family. She was a great person and a devoted AAUW member through the years and a friend to most of us. Her daughter-in-law, Lisa Mountain, was a member of our branch for many years also. Our condolences go out to her family and friends.

Thank you: Thank you to everyone who shared kind words and sympathies to me and my family after my mother, Virginia S. Shaffer, passed away unexpectedly on December 20, 2017, at the Guthrie-Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, Bradford County, PA. She was 87 years old, and had lived a full life. I truly appreciated all the cards and condolences. Sincerely, Bonnie Keller

Study/Interest Groups

Career Women's Study Group

February 2018, Date & Time: TBA

Plans are underway to see the play, Sister Act, at Cedar Crest College in February. Emails will be sent out to current study group members.

Coordinator: Ibi Balog, ibalog@verizon.net

New members are welcome. If interested please contact Ibi Balog at the email listed above.

Literature of the Past and Present

Leader: Annette Bonstedt (610-395-5974)

Thursday, February 15, 12:30pm

Muhlenberg College Trexler Library Rare Books Room (Level B)

Hostess: Cathy Kane, ph. 610-776-8270

Book: *A Piece of the World* by Christina Baker Kline

Reviewer: Cathy Kane

Recent Literature

Leader: Mary Lou Green (620-530-9124)

Thursday, February 8, 2018, 12:30 pm

Hostess: Cathy Kane, ph. 610-776-8270

Book and Author: *The Tea Girl from Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See

Reviewer: Cathy Kane

Please phone hostess if NOT attending

Women's Lit

Leader: Peggy Tyson (610-797-4199)

Monday, February 19, 2 pm

Hostess: Cathy Kane, ph. 610-776-8270

Book: *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict

New members are welcome. Please call hostess if attending.

The Allentonian Please submit news and announcements to the Editor, Bonnie Keller at the.baron@rcn.com

Deadline February 15 for March issue Allentown Branch Website: <http://allentown-pa.aauw.net>

Check the website for updated information and to read *The Allentonian* online.

Allentown Branch email address is: aauwallentown@yahoo.com

National Website: www.aauw.org State Website: www.aauw-pa.aauw.net AAUW Member helpline: 800-326-AAUW

AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW DIVERSITY STATEMENT

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

AAUW LAF/EF

AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sexual discrimination.



Bonnie Keller
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